

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 535

S.P. 181

In Senate, January 19, 1999

An Act Regarding Burial at the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAGGETT of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative WILLIAMS of Orono and
Senators: ABROMSON of Cumberland, FERGUSON of Oxford, RUHLIN of Penobscot,
Representatives: MITCHELL of Vassalboro, TRACY of Rome, TUTTLE of Sanford.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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4 **Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §504, sub-§4, ¶B**, as amended by PL 1997, c.
455, §23, is further amended to read:

6 B. The director must allow the earth burial in the cemetery
8 of any eligible veteran who requests burial in the
cemetery. The director must allow the veteran the option of
10 crypt burial if crypt space exists. All burials must be
without charge, except private burial services as provided
12 under paragraph G.

14 **Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §504, sub-§4, ¶C**, as amended by PL 1997, c.
455, §24, is further amended to read:

16 C. At the dependent's request, the director must allow an
18 eligible dependent of a veteran to be buried in the cemetery
if, at the date of the dependent's death, the veteran would
20 be eligible for burial. Dependents may be buried in the
earth or placed in a crypt adjacent to the veteran without
charge, provided that:

22 (1) If the veteran dies first, the dependents specify
24 in writing their intention to be so buried;

26 (2) If the dependent dies first, the veteran specifies
28 in writing the intention to be buried in the cemetery;
or

30 (3) Eligible family members of members of the armed
32 services or veterans who are permanently buried
overseas, buried at sea, missing in action and declared
34 dead, or whose bodies are inaccessible for other
reasons, may be buried in this cemetery, provided that
36 the deceased member of the armed services or veteran
was eligible for the burial at the time of death; or

38 (4) Accelerated private burial services are allowed
40 only as provided in paragraph G.

42 **Sec. 3. 37-B MRSA §504, sub-§4, ¶G** is enacted to read:

44 G. In consideration of family, religious or other
46 reasonable requirements for a speedy burial in the cemetery,
48 private burial services for eligible veterans or eligible
dependents are allowed, provided that the costs of the
private services are not borne by the State.

SUMMARY

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This bill allows the use of private burial services at the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery for eligible veterans and eligible dependents, providing the costs of the private services are not borne by the State.